

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 121515Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 814

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBEASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINR KN KS CZ

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY PRESS CONFERENCE

REFS STATE 189469, PRAGUE 1860

1. FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS YEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS HAS PROVIDED A ROSTRUM FOR NORTH KOREAN ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES. AS REPORTED IN RUDE PRAVO AUGUST 12, NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR RI WON-BOM HELD NEWS CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE WEDNESDAY BASED ON THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OF AUGUST 5. IN A VICIOUS ATTACK, NORTH KOREANS CHARGED THAT "TROOPS OF THE U.S. ARMY AND CURRENT SERVILE SOUTH KOREAN REGIME HAVE BEEN PUT ON FULL COMBAT ALERT AND DEPLOYED IN OFFENSIVE FORMATIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE." AMBASSADOR WON-BOM WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOUTH KOREA IS BEING PUT ON A WAR ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO RUDE PRAVO, THE
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AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN

TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA AND UNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

2. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF HEIGHTENED RHETORIC IN PYONGYANG AND PREVIOUS PERFORMANCES BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN PRAGUE, WE ARE NOT SURPRISED. PERMANENT DISPLAY WINDOW OUTSIDE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE CONTAINS UNRESTRAINED SLANDER AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES IN FORM OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPTIONS. HOWEVER, ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT GIVES TO NORTH KOREANS CONTINUES TO STRIKE US AS GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY, EVEN FOR PRAGUE.
BYRNE

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